

Torrance, California
February 9, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, February 9, 1943 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 26, 1943 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Tide Water Associated Oil Company, Associated Division, advising that for the twelve months preceding February 1, 1943, no receipts or earnings were derived by said company from the use and ownership of pipe line, for the construction and operation of which City of Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 127 is granted and held by said Company. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Protective Police Service of California, signed by Rae O'Dette, 256 West 117th Street, Los Angeles, requesting a license to operate a police patrol service in the City of Torrance.

Chief Stroh advised he had been contacted by the Protective Police Service of California, and recommended that the request be granted, inasmuch as there are now no such concerns operating in the City of Torrance. He added that the above-mentioned concern is licensed by the state.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of the Protective Police Service of California for a license to operate a police patrol service in the City of Torrance be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Edwin Nesbitt, 207 East 78th Street, Los Angeles, acting on behalf of her tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Belyne and Mrs. Nellie Elder, requesting a permit to park a trailer for the duration of the war for sleeping purposes at 1504 Madrid Avenue.

The communication from Mr. and Mrs. Belyne and Mrs. Nellie Elder, addressed to Mrs. Nesbitt, in which the request was made, was enclosed.

Engineer Jain advised that many requests of similar nature have been made since the housing situation became acute. He recommended that, unless the Council desires to establish a policy at this time in connection with requests for permission to live in trailers, the request be denied.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Mr. and Mrs. Belyne and Mrs. Nellie Elder, submitted by Mrs. Edwin Nesbitt, for permission to park a trailer for the duration of the war for sleeping purposes at 1504 Madrid Avenue be denied. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. A. Zamperini, requesting that a tree at 2028 Gramercy Avenue be removed.

Councilman Powell moved that the pepper tree at 2028 Gramercy Avenue, which represents a hazard to life and property, be removed as requested by Mr. A. Zamperini. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. R. J. Ashley, 1028 Cota Avenue, criticizing the Police Department, claiming that some of the police officers operate the automobiles of the Department at an excessive rate of speed, and also criticizing the Department because, he said, gratis taxi service is provided police officers to and from work. He stated that a Torrance Police Car, driven under the above-mentioned conditions, ran over and killed a dog owned by Mr. Ashley on January 7, 1943.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from Mr. R. J. Ashley in which Mr. Ashley criticized the Torrance Police Department on the grounds that (1) some of the officers operate the Police Department vehicles at an excessive rate of speed, and (2) gratis taxi service is provided police officers to and from work, be referred to the entire City Council for investigation and action. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Senate, California Legislature, enclosing a copy of a recently adopted Resolution calling for information from the various counties and cities of the State, and from the various departments and various commission boards and departments of State Government, relative to duplicate service and to unnecessary expenditures and elimination of functions for the duration.

It was requested that the information called for in the Resolution be furnished prior to March 15, 1943.

Clerk Bartlett read the Resolution in part.

Action on this matter was deferred for one week or more.

A petition for change of zone of all lots in Block 4, 5, 11 and 12, Tract No. 4070, all Lots in Blocks 14, 15, 16 and 19 of Tract No. 2761, and all of Tract No. 10115, from Zones A-1 and R-1 to Zone R-3, was read.

A communication was read from Engineer Jain relative to this matter, in which Engineer Jain outlined the procedure as established by the State Planning Act in changing zones or amending zoning ordinances.

Councilman Cucci moved that the petition requesting re-zoning of certain parcels of land be referred to the Planning Commission in compliance with requirements of the State Planning Act as outlined by Engineer Jain. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, in which Mr. Jain advised that he had been approached by some of the City employees requesting information as to whether they will be granted a leave of absence from the City if they are forced by the most recent order of Selective Service to go into a defense plant.

A discussion followed, in which Engineer Jain stated that thirty-five job classifications have been set up as non-deferrable, but, he added, whether or not municipalities will be able to keep workers is problematic, nothing definite having been stated relative thereto. He said the workers feel that if they are to be forced into defense plants, they should be allowed to go immediately and secure positions comparable with their present ones.

Councilman Powell stated he felt they should retain some Civil Service status if they are compelled to enter war plants. Councilman Hitchcock agreed that they should retain their Civil Service status if they are actually compelled to enter defense industries, but not if they leave their positions voluntarily to enter defense plants.

In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that, inasmuch as there is no provision in State law, and no provision in the City of Torrance Civil Service Rules and Regulations to cover this contingency, the City Attorney give this matter thorough study and render a report Friday evening at a joint meeting with the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be instructed to study the question submitted by Engineer Jain as to whether or not employees will be granted a leave of absence from the City if they are forced by the most recent order of Selective Service to leave their positions with the City and begin work in defense plants, Attorney McCall to render a report Friday, February 12, 1943 at a joint Civil Service-City Council meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, advising that the City Engineer's office has received a request from the Los Angeles Board of Education for permission to move a bungalow onto the High School property. Mr. Jain stated that, in the past, the School Board has been allowed to place the bungalows on mud sills on the ground, on the basis that the buildings would be temporary structures only. However, he continued, most of the bungalows have been there for twelve to fifteen years. He asked whether or not the School District should be required to place the bungalows on concrete foundations in compliance with requirements of the Building Code and City Ordinances.

It was the opinion of the Council that the School District should be required to place the bungalow buildings on concrete foundations in compliance with the Building Code and City Ordinances.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Los Angeles Board of Education be advised that concrete foundations must be provided upon which to place the bungalow or bungalows which the Board proposes to move onto the High School property in compliance with requirements of the Building Code and City Ordinances. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, City of Torrance, advising that at a meeting of the Board held February 3, 1943, a motion had been passed that the Civil Service Board go on record as recommending to the City Council that the Civil Service Contract with the County of Los Angeles be amended, or a new contract entered into for the examination function alone. It was estimated that under the restricted form of contract, a saving to the City of approximately \$230.00 per annum would be effected.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board be complied with; that the City Attorney be instructed to draw an amendment to the existing contract between the City of Torrance and the County of Los Angeles, which contract provides for the performance by the County of all civil service functions, the amended contract to provide that the County perform the examination function only, or that a new contract be entered into for the examination function only. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1563

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE, RESCINDING RESOLUTION
NO. 1558 ENTITLED "A RESOLUTION OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PARCELS
OF REAL PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE."

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1563 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 341

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
TURNING ON OR RECONNECTING GAS SERVICES
ON PREMISES WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 341 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 341 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented an Agreement for Sale of Real Estate, covering property known as the North Torrance Water Well, together with a letter of transmittal from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, in which letter Mr. Jain advised that the agreement had been prepared by Attorney McCall for the consideration of the Council and indicates the actual amount spent to date by the City on this property.

Councilman Hitchcock inquired whether or not the officers of the company have completed reorganization. He said his understanding is that Mr. Don Findley, Attorney, is handling the legal problems of the company, and that he thought the City had been awaiting word from Mr. Findley upon completion of the reorganization proceedings.

Attorney McCall advised that the reorganization has been completed.

Engineer Jain pointed out that at the present time, no one is delegated to operate the well, and that if the City retains ownership of it, some thought should be directed toward operation and upkeep.

Engineer Jain said Mrs. Gonner, one of the interested parties, had intimated that the officers of the company are withholding further action in this matter until the City arrives at a decision with reference to acceptance or rejection of the agreement.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the Council meet and discuss the matter at length in an effort to arrive at a definite conclusion as to terms of the agreement.

It was agreed that the City Attorney should contact Mr. Don Findley, Attorney, and ascertain definitely whether the reorganization proceedings have been completed, a report to be made by the Attorney at the Joint Civil Service-City Council Meeting Friday, February 12, 1943 at 7:30 P.M., after which the agreement will be considered for acceptance or rejection.

Clerk Bartlett presented Assembly Bill No. 120, submitted by Vincent Thomas, Member of Assembly, Sixty-eighth District, which Bill was read at the January 26, 1943 meeting of the Council and referred to the Council for study and report. No action was taken. The Bill was referred back to the Council for study.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$200.00 be made for purchase of a second hand truck for transporting emergency fire equipment. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a communication from J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, in which Mr. McMaster requested that an appropriation of \$300.00 be made for purchase and installation of a two-way radio set in the Fire Department Oldsmobile coupe for use of the Fire Department.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, that an appropriation of \$300.00 be made for purchase and installation of a two-way radio set for the Fire Department Oldsmobile coupe be referred to the City Council for consideration. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell reported that the request of the Fire Department that salaries of Fire Department Personnel be increased to conform to salaries being paid Police Department Personnel had been given thorough consideration by the City Council, but action will be deferred until a budget report is rendered in order that the financial position of the City can be ascertained.

Councilman Powell moved that the Mayor be authorized to set a date for a meeting at the most convenient time for all parties concerned in compliance with a motion made by him January 12, 1943 that such meeting be held in the near future, to which meeting representatives of civic groups should be invited and urged to attend, for the establishment of a Committee for Post-War Planning. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion.

Mayor McGuire suggested that, before the date is set, the various civic organizations be notified to appoint a representative of their group to meet with the City Council for selection of a committee and discussion of Post-War Planning. Councilman Powell approved this idea and incorporated it into his motion, which motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell brought up the subject of Victory Gardens, stating that he thought a campaign should be instigated to encourage planting of Victory Gardens. He suggested that a meeting be held in the near future and all interested persons invited to attend. He said it may be possible to form a committee for the purpose of advising those persons who may seek advice in connection with planting of the gardens. He added that perhaps interest might be stimulated if a small prize is offered for the finest produce grown, an exhibition on the order of a fair to be held. The City, he said, could set aside a small amount for the purpose of obtaining prizes for this purpose.

February 16, 1943 was decided upon as a suitable date for holding the meeting as mentioned by Councilman Powell.

Councilman Powell moved that a meeting be called for February 16, 1943 at 7:30 P.M., to which meeting all persons interested in planting Victory Gardens in the City of Torrance are to be invited to attend, at which time all matters relative thereto will be discussed at length. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued, Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Water Company, participating, relative to water rates for Victory Gardens. Councilman Powell asked what aid the City could render to benefit residents of the Hollywood Riviera section who desire to plant Victory Gardens. Mr. Stanger advised that the California Water Service serves the community and that a lengthy procedure would be necessary before the Company could be expected to offer reduced rates, if they would do so at all, but that it might be worth the effort to contact the City Council of the City of Redondo Beach with the request that it be ascertained by that Council whether or not the California Water Service would consider offering reduced rates to persons desiring to maintain Victory Gardens. Councilman Hitchcock suggested that proper officials of five water companies serving the City of Torrance be contacted and asked to consider the matter of offering reduced water rates to persons desiring to maintain Victory Gardens. Narbonne Ranch Water Companies Nos. 2 and 3 were excepted, inasmuch, Mr. Stanger advised, as their rates are already low enough to warrant no further reduction.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that printing of thirty-five hundred cards be authorized, inviting attendance at the dedication of the Torrance Community Service Flag in front of the Civic Auditorium February 21, 1943 at 3:00 P.M., and urging all those not already engaged in Civilian Defense to make arrangements at the Police Station as soon as possible to serve in some branch of the Civilian Defense program, the card to bear the printed signature of the Torrance Civilian Defense Corps. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$122.21 be made for labor and material for repairing the front steering and roller assembly on the small three-wheel roller for the Street Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$91.38, plus tax, be made for 4500# hay. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the temporary employment of Charles H. Hodges as an equipment operator to replace Willis R. Tracy, resigned, be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the temporary employment of Fernand DePasse as a laborer for the Street Department be authorized. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock reported that Mr. Fred Ernst, an equipment operator of the Street Department, has been inducted into the United States Army, and moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to employ a man to fill the vacancy created thereby. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that the mechanic's helper has also resigned his position.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to hire a mechanic's helper to fill the vacancy created by resignation of the man formerly holding that position. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Fred M. Ernst be given a Military leave of absence from his duties as an equipment operator of the City of Torrance Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:46 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance